

WASHINGTON, DC - Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD) released the following statement on the passing of civil rights leader Benjamin L. Hooks:

"It is with great sadness that I mark the passing of a civil rights icon, Benjamin L. Hooks. For over fifty years, Hooks dedicated his life to the pursuit of justice as he fought for equal rights for all Americans. Emerging as a leader of the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960's, Hooks organized citizens to participate in boycotts across the state of Tennessee and went on to become the first African American Criminal Court Judge in that state. His strong leadership on the Boards of the Federal Communications Commission and later, the NAACP, provided a guiding voice for the movement that fought for fair employment practices for African Americans. He was also largely responsible for bringing the headquarters to Baltimore, Maryland.

"Hooks's legacy will be defined by his service to others, his pursuit of equality, and his dedication to improving the lives of all Americans. His voice lives on as we work to finish his pursuit, striving to perfect this great nation. I offer my deepest condolences and prayers to his family."

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